**drugs policy**

*‘Don't throw yourself towards destruction’*

*"The Prophet (sallallahu alaiyhi wa sallam) prohibited people from the usage of intoxicants and narcotics. Any substance which befogs and intoxicates the mind, the Prophet (sallallahu alaiyhi wa sallam) has stopped us from taking it."*

**Description of Policy and Consultation Process:**

1. The head teacher formulated the draft drugs policy.

2. Draft drugs policy is discussed and ratified by:

* HOY’s
* Senior Management Team
* Staff
* Trustees

**Introduction**

The use of drugs is forbidden in Islam. The health and welfare of everyone involved with this school is the responsibility of the whole school. This responsibility includes pupils, staff members, school & trustees.

**Definitions**

Drugs will be defined as any mind-altering substance (including tobacco, alcohol, solvents, prescribed or none prescribed medicine or illegal drugs).

**Aims**

This policy aims to balance pupil confidentiality against the overall health and welfare of the child - within the limits of the law, and responsibilities to others, i.e. parents, guardians, etc. Staff members should be viewed as a source of support and help, not necessarily punishment. It should be appreciated that children can be affected by drug use in a number of ways, be it their own use, their friend’s or their families. Careful assessment of the whole situation should be practiced. The school is committed to the development of a drug programme.

**The Management of drug related incidents on school premises:**

**General Principles**

As a Muslim school we believe that the possession, use or distribution of any substance (drug) whether on school premises or not (during school hours, travelling to and from school) may threaten the health and welfare of the whole school and, therefore, cannot be tolerated.

The discovery or admission of any pupil experiencing drug-related problems will be seen as a disciplinary matter. A range of responses may be available, parents notified, police involvement, exclusion.

It is the policy of this school that, in case of possession, use, or distribution of drugs, this school will follow procedures to determine the most appropriate response (see appendix 1 for more detailed procedure and appendix 3 for the law on drugs).

* Any member of staff approached by a pupil for individual advice on drug misuse will try to ensure confidentiality as far as possible, within guidelines set by the school and the law. Information should be handed to the school Child Protection Officer.
* Any substances or drug related paraphernalia found on the school premises will be handed to a member of the Pastoral team, i.e. HOY. A sharps bin is available in the Exams Office for any needles etc.
* Any rumors or suspicions of a pupil being involved in a drug related issue will be passed on to a member of the pastoral team and ultimately the school Child Protection Officer.
* Any substance(s) will be confiscated and taken to the senior management to be either destroyed or handed to the police.
* Those persons involved will be reported to the Pastoral team (HOY, etc.)
* The incident will be assessed by the Pastoral team, in consultation with other responsible adults, if necessary, before any action is taken.
* Parents/guardians will be informed and possible other parties, e.g. police
* In cases where there is strong evidence of drug distribution (i.e. selling or giving away) the extent and nature of the incident will be subject to thorough investigation by the school and the Police.
* In cases of drug use (i.e. those actually under the influence of drugs) the prime concern is the health and welfare of the pupils(s) - all efforts will be made to reduce the likelihood of any harm befalling them while in this state.
* Following assessment other services may be notified, e.g. ambulance/hospital and parents/guardians will be contacted.
* Further action may be taken as deemed appropriate

**Review of Policy**

Head teacher, Senior Staff and Health & Safety Committee to review policy bi-annually.

**Issues to be addressed**

* Dissemination and awareness raising of policy to teaching and auxiliary staff.
* Compilation of a ‘guide’ describing/depicting common drugs to aid identification
1. General guide given to all staff
2. Detailed guide to be located in staff room
* Training for pastoral staff on the nature of drugs and help agencies available, i.e. youth services, etc
* Pupil drug education programme (appendix 4)
* Training of all staff on how to deal with drug related emergencies and incidents
* Parent drug awareness raising session
* Citizenship/PSHE Programme to hi-light subject areas where drugs education is taught.

**Appendix 1**

**Procedures**

* Any substance(s) will be confiscated and given to senior management to be either destroyed or handed to the police.
* Identify the substance in question by:
	1. asking the person(s) involved what it is
	2. refer to a guide for visual recognition
* If destroying, take prompt action and ensure another responsible adult is present
* Informing the police is at the school’s discretion. If the substance is to be handed to the police there are no legal obligations to provide any details.
* Those persons involved will be reported to the Head
* Details (e.g. place, time, etc.) and names and classes of those involved should be reported in writing.
* Referral procedures (i.e. route of notification) of incidents should be:
	1. Head of Year
	2. Head Teacher
* The incident will be assessed by the Head, in consultation with other responsible adults, before any action is taken.
* Discussion may involve relevant staff member, pastoral staff, Year Head and where appropriate, specialist drugs worker, parents/guardians
* A confidential record of the incident should be recorded in pupils files.
* Other parties may be informed, such as parents or police. This is at the Head teacher’s discretion
* Pupils should be told if their parents are to be contacted
* Parents may be informed, by either phone or letter from a member of the pastoral team
* All information concerning pupils and the use, possession or distribution of drugs whether on the school premises or not, should be reported to a member of the pastoral team (HOY) and school Child Protection Officer
* In cases where there is strong evidence of drug distribution (i.e. selling or giving away), the extent and nature of the incident will be subject to thorough investigation by the school and the Police.
* ‘Strong evidence’ does not include simple information received. It may include such things as possession of large amounts or multiple packages of drugs, large amounts of money on the person, being caught in the act of distribution, or admission of guilt.
* Drug distribution amongst young people is usually through friendship networks, i.e. one person doing a friend a ‘favour’. Judgment should be reserved until the matter is thoroughly investigated.
* Further investigations may involve discussion with other responsible adults including parents, police, youth worker, drug specialist, etc.
* In cases of drug use (i.e. those actually under the influence of drugs) the prime concern is the health and welfare of the pupils(s).
* All efforts will be made to reduce the likelihood of any harm befalling them while in this state.
* All staff and pupils should be fully conversant with procedures for dealing with drug-related emergencies.
* A senior member of staff will be notified
* A senior member of staff should make an assessment of the situation (alongside a first aider where appropriate) to determine further action
* Following assessment, other services may be notified
* Where necessary, specialist help should be sought e.g. ambulance, specialist drugs worker, etc.
* Further action may then be taken as deemed appropriate
* The effects of any action taken should be considered
* Depending upon assessment of the whole situation and options available, appropriate resolution may be determined.
* Pupils should be reminded regularly of the school policy that all medications either prescribed or non-prescribed (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen) should be handed into the school office with a letter detailing dosage.
* Office keeps a log of when pupils come to take their medications and this itemizes what they took and when they took it. This allows the school to keep an accurate record of doses and prevents the possibility of overdose.
* Should a pupil take or be suspected of taking an overdose, the parents must be informed immediately (and the emergency services where appropriate). Even if the pupil denies it, if there are grounds for suspicion the parents must be informed. Ensure that the parent takes your information seriously and takes their daughter to seek medical advice.
* An incident report should be written regardless of whether the suspicions are unfounded and any witness reports must be collated for evidence.
* The school Child Protection Officer must also be informed.

**Appendix 2**

**Drug Education in the Curriculum**

**1. Drugs and the national Curriculum**

Certain aspects of drug education area are a statutory requirement as part of the National Curriculum science order. The revised order from 1st August 1995, states that pupils should be taught:

At Key Stage 3 (11-14 year olds) that the abuse of alcohol, solvent, tobacco and other drugs affects health and that the body’s natural defence may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines, and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange; and at Key Stage 4 (14-16 year olds) the effects of solvents, tobacco alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

**2. Drugs and Personal and Social Education**

The requirement of the National Curriculum represents the statutory minimum for schools. The Education Reform Act 1988 states that all maintained schools should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and should prepare them for ‘the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life’. To this end drug education is also provided as part of the Personal and Social Education programme. (Refer to PSE handbook for detailed programme of study.)

The programme aims to give pupils accurate information on which to base their decisions about drug use. This includes information about the law, the physiological and psychological effects of drugs, the implications of drug misuse on the individual, family and wider society. Pupils are given an opportunity to develop skills to enable them to resist peer pressure and to develop attitudes to healthy lifestyles.

The programme is largely taught by form tutors but use is also made of visiting speakers, theatre groups, videos, etc.

**The Law on Drugs**

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

1. To supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act.
2. To be in of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act. It is defence to the offence of Possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence, and that as soon as possible after taking possession of it, he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him, to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it
3. For the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowing to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply or offering to supply of any controlled drug.

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